

ABSTRACT

CONNECTIONS ON DEMAND BETWEEN SUBSCRIBERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The present invention relates to the ability to set up connections on demand between subscribers and service providers and allows network capacity to be best shared among users. Whenever a service terminal (ST) requests a service (S) from a service provider (SP), an authentication server (AUTH) checks whether the service terminal can access the requested service. If so, a network controller (CTRL) set up a connection (C) to deliver the requested service with the required quality of service, said connection being established between the network termination (NT), to which the service terminal is coupled, and the access server (AS), to which the service provider is coupled. The authentication server supplies transport requirements of the requested service for establishing the connection.

The access server and the network termination comprise forwarding means (FW1, FW2) adapted to discriminate the traffic related to said service and to forward it to the appropriate connection, thereby establishing the end to end data communication path between the service terminal and the service provider. The authentication server supplies forwarding criteria for establishing the end to end data communication path.